

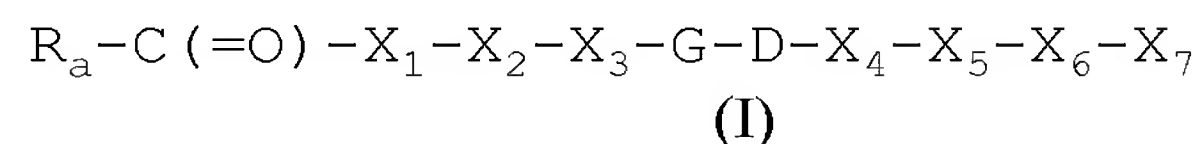
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in claim 1 given~~ comprising a peptidic vector and at least one fluorescein dye, wherein the peptidic vector and the fluorescein dye are coupled, and wherein said peptidic vector is defined by formula I:



wherein Formula I comprises ~~comprising~~ two cyclising bridges,
~~wherein X₃, G and D are defined as in claim 1, and wherein~~

R_a represents $-(CH_2)_n-$ or $-(CH_2)_n-C_6H_4-$ forming a bridge to one of either ~~X₂, X₄ or X₆,~~
wherein

n represents a positive integer from 1 to 10, and

X₁ represents a bond or 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 amino acid residues, wherein one amino acid residue is optionally functionalised with a spacer moiety, or said amino acid residue possesses a functional side-chain ~~such as~~ chosen from an acid or amine group,

~~X₂ and X₄ represent independently is an amino acid residues capable of residue~~ forming a cyclising bridge to one of R_a, X₄ or X₆;

X₃ represents arginine or N-methylarginine,

G represents glycine,

D represents aspartic acid,

X₄ is an amino acid residue forming a cyclising bridge to one of R_a, X₂ or X₆;

X₅ represents a hydrophobic amino acid or derivatives thereof, and

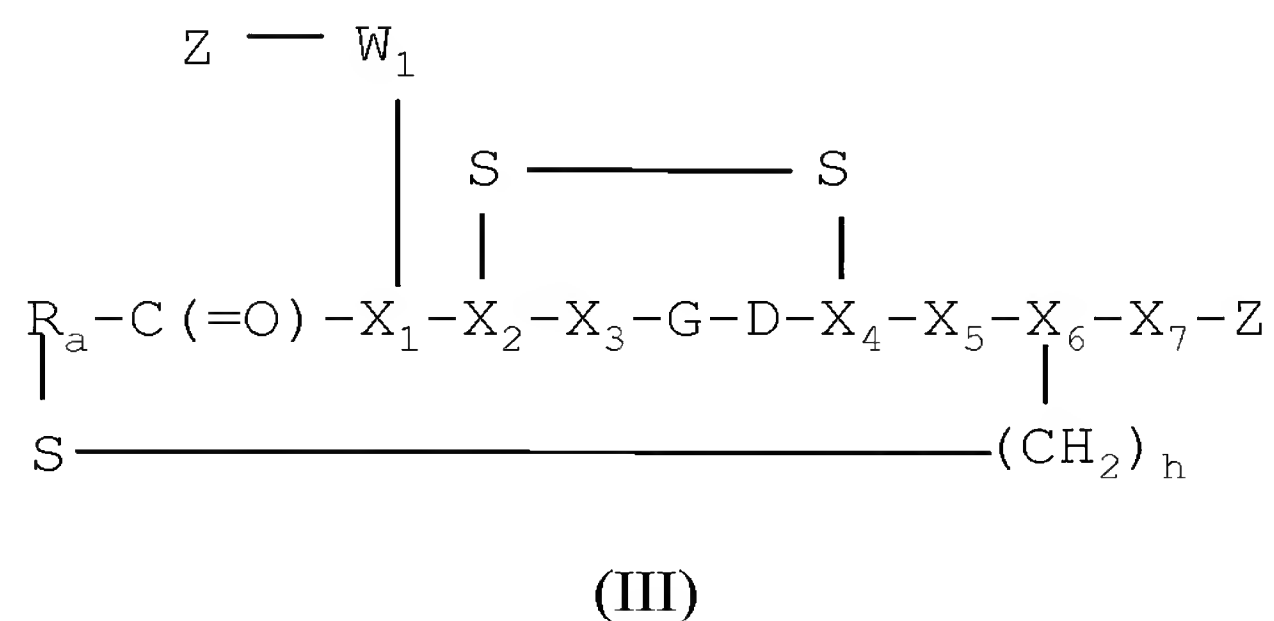
X₆ represents an amino acid residue ~~capable of forming a cyclising bridge to either R_a, X₂ or~~
X₄, and

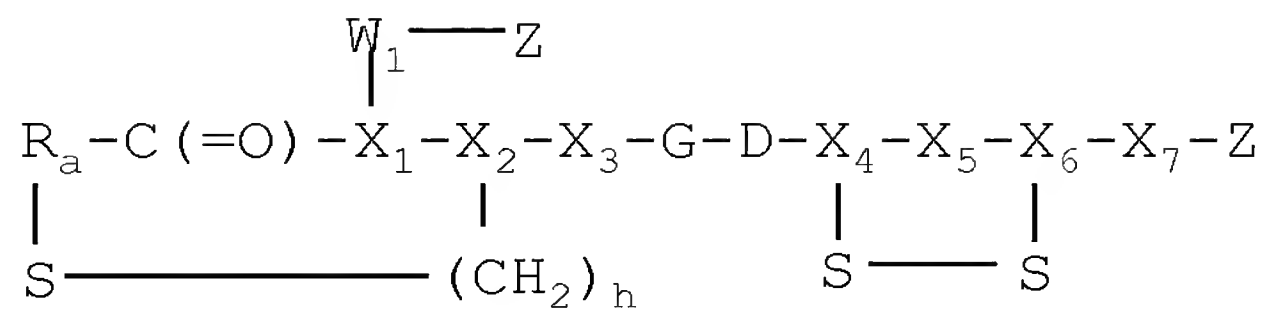
X₇ represents a spacer or biomodifier moiety or is absent, wherein said biomodifier
comprises a monodisperse polyethylene glycol (PEG) building block comprising 1 to 10
units of said building block;

and,

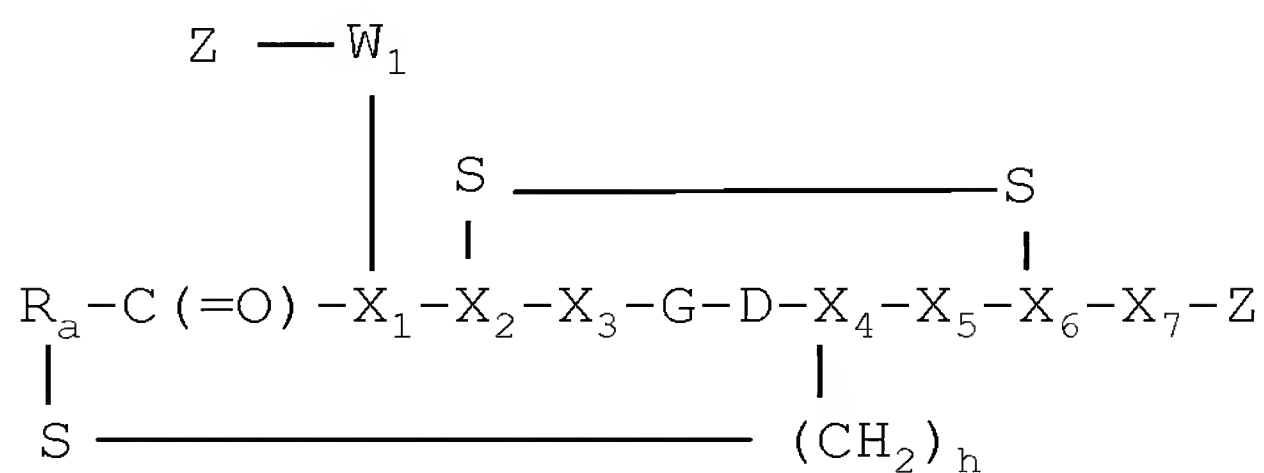
the compound further comprising at least one group Z, representing a fluorescein dye, linked
to one or more of the groups X₁, X₆ or X₇ optionally via a spacer group.

3. (Currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim 2 selected from one of the formulae
~~formulas~~;





(IV)



(V)

wherein ~~R_a, X₄, X₃, G, and D, X₅, and X₇~~ are as defined in ~~claims claim 1 and 2~~ and wherein

X₂, X₄ and X₆ represent amino acid residues ~~capable of forming which together form a~~
disulphide or a thioether bond as shown in Formulae III, IV or V,

W₁ is a spacer moiety or is absent,

h is a positive integer 1 or 2,

and wherein at least one of the Z groups is present representing a fluorescein dye.

4. (Original) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein R_a represents -(CH₂)-
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5. (Currently amended) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein X₁ represents an amino acid residue with a functional side-chain ~~such as~~ chosen from an acid or amine group, the amino acid being selected from aspartic acid, lysine, glutamic acid, homolysine or a diaminoalicylic ~~diaminoaleylie acid or derivatives thereof~~.
6. (Previously presented) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein X₂, X₄ and X₆ independently represent a cysteine or homocysteine residue.
7. (Previously presented) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein X₃ represents arginine.
8. (Previously presented) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein X₅ represents phenylalanine, tyrosine, a 3-iodo-tyrosine or naphthylalanine.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of claim 1, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, excipients or diluents.
11. (Currently amended) ~~Compounds of any of claim 1 for use as an~~ An optical imaging contrast agent which comprises the compound of claim 1.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Currently amended) A method of generating images of a human or animal body by optical imaging involving administering the ~~a~~ contrast agent of claim 11 to said body, and subsequently generating an image of at least a part of said body ~~to which said contrast agent~~

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~~has distributed, characterized in that said contrast agent comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1.~~